

*Leaders Make A Difference, NOT Excuses!*

# Command Voice

Volume 2, Issue 4

Family Support & Information Newsletter Supporting HQ Co, 306th MI Bn

December 2000



## “Demonstrator, Post!”

SGT Benjamin Sones watches as PFC John Scott receives a camouflague facial from SGT Carolyn Taylor during the semi-annual company Field Training Exercise. The FTX was conducted from 15-16 November in the vicinity of Site Freedom, Blacktail Canyon. During the two day exercise, soldiers from the company were trained on all Fiscal Year 2001 Common Tasks. Once training was completed, the soldiers were broken down into squads and sent out on various missions. While performing their missions, the soldiers were required to react to situations encountered and perform the tasks previously trained. Missions included casualty rescue and evacuation in an NBC environment, squad movement techniques, and setting up and defending a defensive position. The two day exercise was an overall success and gave the soldiers the opportunity to get out of the office and experience realistic training in a field enviroment.

## Commander's Column



We have many new soldiers and families assigned to Headquarters Company and welcome them to Fort Huachuca and the unit. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about Headquarters (HQ) Company, especially since the recent restructure of Fort Huachuca. Our higher headquarters remains the same, the 306<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, however, we now have a Brigade Headquarters, the 112<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade. Our Company has over 115 soldiers in 9 different sections that contain as many as 25 different MOS's! HQ Company plays a major role in the sustainment of US-AIC&FH operations on a daily basis with sections such as the Staff Judge Advocate, Post Chapel, Inspector General, Post Equal Opportunity Office, Post Retention, Office of the Registrar, and many others. With the wide variety of missions throughout the company, we maintain a family support system through a variety of venues. The first one is this family support and information newsletter including articles and input from the Battalion Chaplain, MAJ Copeland, the Battalion CSM, CSM Goodman and the Battalion CDR, LTC Reyes. The second venue is the company webpage that 1SG Roberts created and maintains. If you have not had a chance to view it, the webpage is full of all kinds of information from company training to battalion, brigade, and post activities to Army policies. You

can view the web page at <http://138.27.35.32/garrison/306hq/index.htm>. The last venue is through a good sponsorship program, concentrating on assisting those family members who's spouse/children or loved ones are geographically separated due to deployments, Temporary Duty (TDY) or assignments to Korea. If anyone is interested in getting together on a regular basis or has suggestions for the family support group/company support group, please call me (533-2357) and let me know. I am interested in your ideas.

Thanks to all for your generous contributions to the Thanksgiving Food Voucher Program and the Combined Federal Campaign. The Food Voucher and Christmas Giving Tree Programs contributions directly provide for soldiers in the company. We truly appreciate your generosity and overall caring attitude.

The Holidays are here! We look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party, 1130, 14 December at MURR Community. This time of year is fun, joyful and happy, however, it can also be sad, lonely and stressful also. Encourage all to recognize those soldiers or family members who need a helping hand, a shoulder, an ear or any assistance. Offer it to them and if necessary, inform 1SG and myself so we can provide assistance. Wish you and your families a very safe and happy Holiday Season!

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### Command Voice

The *Command Voice* is an authorized unofficial family support and information newsletter published under the provisions of AR 360-81. Reproduced at the Fort Huachuca printing office, *Command Voice* serves as an information medium for the soldiers and families of Headquarters Company, 306<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion. Opinions expressed in *Command Voice* do not necessarily reflect the opinions and policies of the Department of Defense, Department of the

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## Top Notch



This last quarter has been a fast moving one. We lost a third of the company to the new HHC Garrison company. The soldiers all seem to be doing well and things are finally stabilizing for them with their new Command Team. I wish them all the best.

For the rest of us, it has been business as usual; work, training, training, work, etc. The train never stops and we all have to do what has to be done to accomplish the mission.

September was a very busy month for the soldiers of HQ Company. We ran the M16 Qualification Range, ensuring that we tied the loop with those soldiers going to HHC Garrison and got those needing qualification out to the range and qualified. The range was a huge success, as all HQ Company ranges are.

Our soldiers also supported the Hispanic Heritage Celebration, the World Wide Intelligence Conference, and the 112th Military Intelligence Brigade Activation Ceremony, ensuring that these events were fully accomplished.

The Combined Federal Campaign kicked off in September. Again, HQ Company did an outstanding job. This company never ceases to amaze me with the amount of support that enlisted, officers, and civilians are willing to contribute to ensure that the well-being of another soldier is top priority.

Lastly, we marched in the September End-of-Month Retirement Ceremony. Although we did not win the Commander's Marching Guidon this time, our soldiers looked very professional and displayed themselves proudly.

October started off with Fall Cleanup. Our areas of responsibility were greatly reduced and so this year's cleanup was a breeze and was accomplished very quickly. Next came the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition for CPT Cater, SSG Key, SGT Sones, and myself. This competition continued on through 4 November and resulted in all four earning the badge.

We also conducted land navigation training at Blacktail Canyon in preparation for the November Common Task Testing (CTT) Field Training Exercise (FTX). The instruction was very informative and helped the soldiers to be better prepared for the FTX.

In November, we conducted the CTT FTX at Blacktail Canyon. The FTX started off on day one with the soldiers receiving training on all 18 tasks that would be evaluated during the missions conducted throughout the course of the FTX. After training was completed, the soldiers were put on break and enjoyed a lunch time feast consisting of Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MREs). For some, this was a very enjoyable meal; others traded their eye teeth to get the items they wanted.

After lunch, the soldiers were divided into squads. Squads consisted of soldiers from all the different sections in an attempt to build some camaraderie with soldiers that they do not normally work with. The squads were then sent out of various missions.

One mission consisted of rescuing a casualty from a chemical environment, all the while watching for possible enemy contact. As the squad navigated to the coordinates of the casualty, they were required to don their protective overgarments, enter the contaminated area, protect the casualty from further injury, and evacuate.

Another mission consisted of two squads joining at a given coordinate and setting up a platoon defensive perimeter. After the perimeter was established, everyone returned to the base camp and ate a hot meal prepared by the Virginia Dining Facility. After dinner, the two squads resumed their defensive positions and two more squads were sent out to attack and occupy the area. This presented a unique challenge for many of the soldiers as they had to navigate at night. Overall, the FTX was a resounding success.

November also brought generous donations from members of the unit. Soldiers and civilians of all ranks donated \$700 in support of our young soldiers in the company. This money was returned to the young soldiers in the form of food vouchers to be used at the commissary. It is my hope that this helped these soldiers to have a better Thanksgiving than they might otherwise have been able to enjoy. In addition, Army Community Service gave us turkeys, stuffing, bread, and vegetables that were also distributed among the soldiers.

My family and I enjoyed a terrific Thanksgiving. We had a total of 50 soldiers and their family members stop by and have dinner with us. One could say that it would have been more enjoyable to have dinner with family, but I never will. All of you are my family and it was a great day to give Thanks by enjoying the smiles and laughs of all of you around us.

December is here already and the Christmas rush has already begun. Many soldiers will receive a little extra help from the HQ Company Santa Claus (again, donations from fellow soldiers and civilians within the company). We will also have our company Holiday Gathering. This will take place on 14 December, 1130 hours, at the Murr Community Center. CPT Cater and I will supply the turkey and ham while individual sections provide vegetables, starches, and of course, desserts. It will be another great day for the HQ Company family.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a safe and wonderful holiday season. Many of you will be departing the area to go home and be with loved ones and family. I hope you have a safe trip and look forward to starting off a great new year with all of you. Happy Holidays, Top



## What's New

### What's New

#### Promotions:

PFC Jo Martinez - Chapel  
CPT Benjamin Kinsley - SJA  
CPT Robert Fellrath - SJA

#### DA Promotion Selections:

SSG(P) Suzanne Sueing  
SSG(P) Steven Key  
SSG(P) Jeffrey Hellen

#### Course Graduates:

SPC Coons - BN S3 - PLDC  
SSG Lane - Post Security - EO Course  
SGT Allen - SSO - UPL Course  
SGT Whited - Cmd Group - UPL Course  
SPC Mays - Bn S1 - NBC Defense

### Soldier/NCO of the Month

SPC LaToya Mays was selected as Company Soldier of the Month for the Month of October. SPC Mays also won Battalion and Brigade Soldier of the Month for the Month of November. SPC Mays works in the Battalion S-1.

SPC Jeffrey Denton was selected as Company Soldier of the Month for the Month of November. SPC Denton works in the Protocol Office.

SGT Gerald Vassallo was selected as Company NCO of the Month for the Month of November. SGT Vassallo is the NCOIC of the Main Post Chapel.

### New Arrivals

#### Hails:

CH (LTC) Mario Amezcua - Chapel  
SSG Timothy Krause - Cmd Group  
CSM Charles Goodman - Bn CSM  
SFC Fred Brackins - Post Security  
SFC Karen Brackins - IG Office  
CH (MAJ) Garry Dale - Chapel  
SSG Wendy Foutain - Cmd Group  
SSG Steven Key - Registrar  
SGT Brenda Allen - SSO  
SFC Terry Strauss - IG Office  
SGT Carmela Whited - Cmd Group  
SFC Thomas Wiederstein - Bn S3  
PFC Oghogho Osemota - Bn S1  
SGT Carolyn Taylor - SJA  
SGT Stacy Jones - Post Retention  
SSG Jeffrey Hellen - Co Operations  
SFC Curtis Moorer - EO Office  
MSG Michael Smith - Reserve Affairs  
SGT William Tully - SSO  
SFC Janet Tullis - Bn S2  
SPC William South - Bn S3  
SFC Dorothy Taylor - IG Office  
1LT Mindee Summers - Co HQ Staff  
PFC Joseph Ranalla - SJA  
PV2 Pamela Smith - Cmd Group

### New Company Reenlistment NCO

**SSG Steven Key is the new Company Reenlistment NCO.**

**For Reenlistment Questions, call SSG Key at 538-1030.**



After SGT Taylor finished with PFC Scott, it was time for a little pay-back. Looks like PFC Scott did a pretty good job!



#### Births:

**Benjamin Acosta** was born on 09 October 2000. Proud parents are CPT and Mrs. Lanny Acosta. CPT Acosta works in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

**Branton Brown** was born on 17 October 2000. Proud parents are SPC and Mrs. Colin Brown. SPC Brown also works in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

## The God Squad

So, why do bad things happen to good people?

- 1 Often, events we call "bad" turn out (later on) to have resulted in something good. You've learned lessons from painful but small problems that helped you avoid BIG problems later on. ("For we know that all things work together for good, for those who love the Lord." Romans 8:28)
- 2 God created a perfect world; it was our human refusal to follow God's guidance (called "sin") that introduced suffering and death into our human experience. Since, we brought the "bad things" on ourselves, don't blame God. ("For I know the plans I have for you, say G\_d: plans to bless and not to curse you, plans to prosper and not to harm you." Jeremiah)
- 3 "Resistance Training:" We get stronger, physically and mentally, by pushing against ("resisting") heavy objects (our mid-sections??), by overcoming obstacles. As we overcome bad things (accidents, injuries, sickness, broken relationships) we become stronger, better people.
- 4 One measure of our full humanity, of our "civilization," is how (and how much) we help others who are experiencing bad things. A fully human being is compassionate, do-

ing things to help the hungry, homeless, and the suffering. Their suffering gives "meaning" and "value" to our lives by giving us opportunity to do something to help. ("Two are better than one, for if one falls down the other can help him up and if they get cold, they can warm each other up." Book of Ecclesiastes)

So, "bad things" happening, isn't all bad. Maybe the real question we should ask is "Judging by what I am doing to help the less fortunate, how "fully-human" am I?"

If you are interested in helping the starving, suffering civilians in southern Sudan's Blue Nile / Nuba Mountains region, see "Stan the Man," your Battalion's "God Squad," still on patrol.

"How can you say you love God, when you cannot see, if you do not love your fellow man whom you do see?"

**Chaplain Stan Copeland:**

**Work: 533-3326**

**Home: 452-8028**

**Room 1321, Riley Barracks**

## A Word from the Battalion Commander



To the soldiers, civilians and the families of the 306th MI BN:

The last 4 and a half months have passed quickly, but our two companies have accomplished so much in the face of rapid change, both in organizational structure/re-alignment, and in mission changes. Like other units throughout the Army, we have our share of challenges in personnel, resources, and time constraints. However, I am firmly convinced that we are successful because all members on the battalion and company "teams" make it happen, each and every day. For that, my hat's off to all of you, individually and collectively, for "being a part of this team and making it happen."

As we enter this holiday season, please take the time to enjoy with your family and loved ones. I also ask that you keep in your thoughts and prayers not only our battalion soldiers, but all those service members who are currently deployed on mission support, such as Bosnia and Kosovo, as well as those on unaccompanied tours. Do what you can to help our soldiers and families get through this period. I know that both companies have a family support system that, when needed, can and will assist in this cause. Any effort is most appreciated.

For those of you travelling during the holidays, please be safe in all that you do. Have a great time, but more importantly, make it back safely!

Have a great holiday season and a Happy New Years!!!!

## Common Sense

### Military Pay Information Line Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)

**What is it?** The Military Pay Information Line provides service members access to their pay information. By using a Personal Identification Number (PIN), your Social Security Number (SSN), and a touch tone telephone, you will be able to use the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) to access your pay information 24 hours a day.

**How does it work?** If you currently have IVRS access, the change will be transparent to you, although you may need to listen for new options. Primary user PINs will continue to access the new service.

If you don't have access, you will be issued a temporary PIN to initially access the system. The PIN must be changed within 120 days of issuance. You may call the IVRS toll free (within CONUS) or through DSN. You will be asked for your SSN and PIN to access the following information.

**What information is on the Military Pay Information Line?**

#### Active Duty:

- Net Pay, Direct Deposit
- Allotment Information
- Bond Information
- Tax Information
- Leave Balance Information

#### Reserve and National Guard:

- Net Pay, Direct Deposit Information
- SGLI Election Information
- Tax Information

#### Recently Separated Service Members:

- Final Account Audit Status
- W2 Information

All Callers will also be able to access general information on the following areas:

- Non-receipt of allotments
- Information on bonds in safekeeping
- Reporting procedures for lost or stolen bonds
- Inquiries regarding estimated earnings for purposes of civilian retirement
- Direct access to a bond technician

All service members will begin at main menu (IVRS Access Keys) and be routed to the menu upon their current status:

#### **IVRS Access Keys:**

- Press 1: to report service members death.
- Press 2: if you are a member inquiring about specific pay account information.
- Press 3: all other inquiries

#### **Active Duty Quick Key Access:**

- Press 1: for net pay/direct deposit
- Press 2: for allotments and bonds
- Press 3: for W2 and tax information
- Press 4: for leave information
- Press 5: for garnishment information

#### **Reserve/National Guard Quick Key Access:**

- Press 1: for net pay/direct deposit
- Press 2: for W2 and tax information
- Press 3: for SGLI information
- Press 4: for information on changing direct deposit

#### **Separatee Quick Key Access:**

- Press 1: for information regarding final audit status
- Press 2: for W2 information
- Press 7: to repeat information
- Press 9: to return to the main menu

#### **U.S. Army (Active/Res./Nat'l Guard):**

Toll Free: 1-888-PAY ARMY

Commercial: (317)510-0665

DSN: 699-0665



## Let's Get Ready to Rumble!

**SGT William Tully and PFC Arthur Gray demonstrate their RAMBO impersonation as they get ready to go out on another mission sequence.**